

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01

OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 ERDE-00

SY-05 SCCT-01 /144 W

----- 005517

O 261259Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6754

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS VIENNA 8238

PARIS FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ

DEPARTMENT FOR EB

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, AU

SUBJECT: OPEC CONFERENCE - THIRD DAY, FIRST STATUS REPORT

REF: VIENNA 8212 AND PREVIOUS

1. TODAY'S SESSION RESUMED AT ABOUT 1200 HOURS AT OPEC HEADQUARTERS WITH PRESS AND TELEVISION MUCH IN EVIDENCE INCLUDING ABC, CBS AND NBC. NO TELLING WHEN SESSION WILL ADJOURN.

2. AMOUZEGAR ARRIVED AT ABOUT 1125 AND GAVE A SHORT PRESS CONFERENCE MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) IT IS POSSIBLE THERE WILL BE A TWO-STAGE INCREASE.

B) IRAN IS ADVOCATING A FIFTEEN TO SIXTEEN PERCENT INCREASE.

C) ELEVEN NATIONS ARE AGAINST A FIVE PERCENT INCREASE.

D) IRAN FEELS ENTITLED TO A THIRTY TO THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT INCREASE BASED ON PUBLISHED FIGURES OF OECD, ETC.

E) IRAN IS AGAINST AN INCREASE OF LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT.

F) TIMING OF A POSSIBLE SECOND STAGE PRICE INCREASE WAS NOT INDICATED DESPITE SOME DISCUSSION OF A TWO-STAGE INCREASE.

3. HERNANDEZ-ACOSTA ARRIVED AT 1135 BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD THAT HE MADE ANY SUBSTANTIVE REMARKS TO PRESS.

4. YAMANI ARRIVED AT 1140. REPORTERS ARE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT FROM THEIR TAPE RECORDERS PRECISELY WHAT HE WAS ASKED AND WHAT HE ANSWERED. OUR UNDERSTANDING UNCLASSIFIED

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IS THAT HE SAID QUOTE OUR POSITION IS TO FREEZE OIL PRICES UNQUOTE. A QUESTION WAS APPARENTLY ASKED ABOUT HIS PREVIOUS UPPER LIMIT OF FIVE PERCENT AND TO THAT HIS ANSWER WAS QUOTE THAT WASN'T OUR POSITION, THAT WAS THE ALGERIAN POSITION UNQUOTE. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT HE WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD AGREE TO MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT IN THE FIRST STAGE AND THAT HE ANSWERED NO. FURTHER QUESTIONS AS TO THE SECOND

STAGE, WHETHER ANYTHING HAD CHANGED SINCE HIS TRIP TO LONDON AND WHETHER HE HAD ANY NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT WENT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, UNANSWERED AS HE INCHED HIS WAY INTO THE BUILDING THROUGH THE BATTERIES OF REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN. (VARIOUS REPORTERS GOT VARIOUS BITS AND PIECES OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THEIR TAPE RECORDERS.)

5. OTAIBA ARRIVED SHORTLY BEFORE 12 AND, AS WE UNDERSTAND, HE SAID THAT A UNANIMOUS DECISION WAS PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT LIKELY BUT INDICATED FURTHER THAT A MAJORITY DECISION WAS POSSIBLE AND THAT WHILE IT WOULD NOT BIND SAUDI ARABIA THEY WOULD TRY TO BRING IN SAUDI ARABIA. A REPORTER ASKED QUOTE WHAT ABOUT EIGHT PERCENT NOW AND FIVE PERCENT NEXT JANUARY UNQUOTE. OTAIBA SAID HIS COUNTRY WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL, BUT THAT THE U.A.E. WOULD BE PROPOSING A TWELVE PERCENT INCREASE NOW AND A FIFTEEN-MONTH FREEZE ON FURTHER INCREASES.

6. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS OUTSIDE OPEC HEADQUARTERS ARE MUCH IMPROVED OVER FIRST TWO DAYS. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT INTERIOR OF OPEC SECRETARIAT BUILDING IS UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE. CERTAINLY, ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE BUILDING, WHICH HOUSES OTHER OFFICES INCLUDING CANADIAN EMBASSY AND TEXACO AUSTRIA, IS UNDER MUCH STRICTER CONTROL THAN AT PREVIOUS CONFERENCES.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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